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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
8 AT TACOMA

9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 SHAWN A GOLDFINCH,

13 Defendant.

CASE NO. CR09-5667RJB

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR  
SENTENCE REDUCTION BASED  
ON RETROACTIVE  
AMENDMENTS TO COCAINE  
BASED GUIDELINES

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15 This matter comes before the court on the above-referenced motion (Dkt. 31). The court  
16 is familiar with the records and files herein and documents filed in support of and in opposition  
17 to the motion.

18 It appears that the defendant qualifies to have his sentence reduced from 96 months to 60-  
19 63 months pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2). Both the probation department and the defendant  
20 request such a reduction to 63 months, the high end of the new guideline range.

21 The plaintiff argues that the defendant's sentence should not be reduced because such a  
22 reduction is discretionary under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) and because of the post-sentencing  
23 assaults, the court's discretion should be exercised by denying the sentence reduction,  
24 considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR SENTENCE  
REDUCTION BASED ON RETROACTIVE  
AMENDMENTS TO COCAINE BASED  
GUIDELINES- 1

1 While the record indicates that Mr. Goldfinch has received prison sanctions for assaultive  
2 behavior in custody since his sentencing, it is not clear from the record just exactly what Mr.  
3 Goldfinch actually did (as compared to what other prisoners may have done) and it appears that  
4 Mr. Goldfinch may have some defenses to his prison violations. In any event, those matters  
5 were handled through the prison disciplinary process.

6 It appears to the court that if the court were to consider denying the defendant's requested  
7 reduction in sentence, a full hearing would be necessary to determine exactly what happened at  
8 the time of the post-sentencing infractions and to determine the defendant's culpability. Due  
9 process would demand no less.

10 Under all of the circumstances presented here, it appears to the court that the better  
11 course is to allow the prison system to deal with the post-sentencing infractions and to allow the  
12 sentence reduction requested, with the hope that Mr. Goldfinch is receiving and will receive  
13 within the prison system the assistance he needs to live crime-free in the future.

14 The court has executed the order regarding motion for sentence reduction pursuant to 18  
15 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) for the foregoing reasons.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 The Clerk is directed to send uncertified copies of this Order to all counsel of record and  
18 to any party appearing *pro se* at said party's last known address.

19 Dated this 29th day of December, 2011.

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22 ROBERT J. BRYAN  
23 United States District Judge  
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